



**MEETING SUMMARY  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)  
UPPER EAST COAST WATER SUPPLY PLAN (Plan)  
REGIONAL WORKSHOP  
South Florida Water Management District  
USDA-ARS-US Horticultural Research Laboratory  
2001 South Rock Road  
Fort Pierce, FL 34945  
September 18, 2003**

Attendees:

Lennart Lindahl – Chairman of UECWSP and SFWMD Governing Board Member

WRAC Members:

Doug Bournique  
Walter Carson

Joe Collins  
Patrick Hayes

WRAC Alternates:

Thomas Bausch

Interested Parties:

Philip Dover  
David Elam  
Flip Gates  
Mary Ann Gosa  
Kathleen Greenwood  
Laurie Hurner  
Julie Jennison

Steve Lamb  
Joan Lawrence  
Bess McKinney  
Michael Minton  
Anne Murray  
Donna Smith  
Richard Stenberg

SFWMD Staff:

Ken Ammon  
Mark Elsner  
David Gilpin-Hudson  
Michelle Percy

Beth Ross  
Patti Sime  
Keith Smith  
Pat Walker

1. **Welcome and Introductions** by Len Lindahl, Chairman, Upper East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan Committee and SFWMD Governing Board Member. He called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chairman Lindahl asked all attendees to introduce themselves and state their affiliation.

Announcements by Chairman Lindahl:

(A) Mark Elsner, Lead Engineer, Planning & Development Department, SFWMD, will now be the Plan Manager on this project.

(B) The Budget Adoption Final Hearing for the SFWMD Fiscal Year 2004 budget will be held on September 23, 2003 at SFWMD Headquarters and information may be obtained from the District's website.

## **2. Action Items from Previous Workshop by Chairman Lindahl.**

A handout entitled "Plan Expectations for the UECWSP" (Plan) was distributed and explained to the group by Chairman Lindahl. The handout was a follow-up from the previous meeting.

Mr. Hayes commented on the Plan and questioned how environmental water supply is going to be addressed. Chairman Lindahl explained the water resources planning that has been done to meet the water needs of various users, including the environment. Mr. Elsner explained the 1998 UECWSP did incorporate water supply to the environment, including analyzing drawdowns under wetlands and incorporating what information was available on freshwater flows to the estuaries. The 2004 Plan Update will incorporate current information on the work and progress on the Loxahatchee and St. Lucie rivers. The Plan will include all the areas of concern to all parties and will be discussed at future meetings. The setting of initial reservations in the planning process was discussed. Chairman Lindahl spoke on Reservations and the White Paper prepared by Kenneth Ammon, Director, Water Supply Department at SFWMD. A presentation on Loxahatchee River Restoration will be on the agenda for the next workshop.

Chairman Lindahl said now is the time to send a message of support for the Indian River Lagoon to all legislators, commissioners, and action groups.

## **3. Overview of Process for Plan Update, Mark Elsner, Lead Engineer, Water Supply Department, SFWMD.**

Mr. Elsner presented his contact information for members of the WRAC and general public. He stated the update process is going to rely more on electronic distribution of information. He reminded attendees to make sure they wrote their email addresses on the sign-in sheets. A website for the 2004 Plan update will be established in a week or two. The site will include draft documents, workshop information including presentations, handouts, meeting summaries and agendas, and other associated information. The 2004 Plan Update site will be located under [www.sfwmd.gov/org/wsd/wsp/uecwsp](http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/wsd/wsp/uecwsp).

Mr. Elsner reviewed the planning process chart and noted several changes. The full WRAC presentation scheduled for October and the Governing Board presentation in November have been moved to December. This will allow the presentations to incorporate the results of the November 7 meeting including issue identification and preliminary recommendation concepts. The January 14 workshop has been moved to January 21 to avoid a conflict with the January Governing Board meeting. Draft Chapter 2 & 3 of the Planning Document will be posted on the WEB prior to the next meeting.

**4. State of Public Water Supply (Continued) Anne Murray, County Hydrologist, Martin County Utilities.**

A presentation on Martin County Utilities Water and Wastewater Ten Year Facilities Plan was given by Ms. Murray. She stated that the planning process for the Facilities Plan was initiated in the summer of 2000. The goals of the Plan include: financial, technical, and operational capabilities to meet future needs, considerations. She indicated the guiding principals of the Plan, which include a comprehensive approach balancing supply and demand, incorporation of resource alternatives, and encompass long-term least cost planning. The Plan incorporates regionalization as a strategic goal to: increase efficiency, promote water conservation, and enhance source protection and environmental protection. From the water supply-side, the vision is for two regional facilities, one at the North County facility and the other at Tropical Farms.

She reviewed the current conditions, including existing capacity, existing demand, projected demand, and build-out demand. The various plans of each water facility were reviewed for North County, Martin Downs, Tropical Farms and Vista Salerno. Martin County Utilities is projecting a growth of 1,000 units per year, and is developing the Floridan Aquifer to meet these additional needs. She reviewed key projects Martin County has underway, including the North Plant reverse osmosis (RO) expansion, Golden Gate repump station, a Martin Downs-North County Interconnect, and the Tropical Farms water and wastewater treatment plant expansions. The 10-year capital improvement program to implement this Facilities Plan is estimated to cost \$103 million. She indicated they would like to see Floridan Aquifer System (FAS) water quality and quantity modeling, abandonment of leaking Floridan wells, and continued alternative water supply funding from the 2004 Plan Update.

Kenneth Ammon complimented Martin County on their development of alternative sources for water supply. Information on wastewater treatment facilities was discussed. Currently, Martin County reuses about 90% of their wastewater. They would like to achieve 100% reuse in the near future. Chairman Lindahl commended Martin County for their program and development of alternative water supplies.

A question and answer session was held. Floridan wells, well abandonment programs, modeling on aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) were topics of discussion. Large scale application of the ASR technology have a lot of issues that need to be addressed. Chairman Lindahl addressed the issues involved in modeling. Mr. Ammon provided further information on the scale of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) ASR impact analysis and the District's current projects. The UEC Plan's five year updates are very important to stay current on the progress made in this area. Further questions were asked and answered on well abandonment and wells that are permitted by SFWMD. It was suggested that a more proactive program on Floridan wells needs to be created.

Ms. Murray said a series of bonds have been issued to pay for Martin County's programs, as well as funding requests from the SFWMD.

**5. Discuss Plan Objectives and Chapter 1 by Mark Elsner.**

Mr. Elsner asked for comments on the draft Chapter 1 of the 2004 Plan Update Planning Document. In the future, as the group moves forward, comments will be accepted on all the Chapters.

The goal and objectives were discussed. The goal of the Plan is tailored after the State's comprehensive goal and is to "Identify sufficient sources of water and funding to meet the needs of all reasonable-beneficial uses within the Upper East Coast Planning Area for the year 2025 during a drought event that has the probability of occurring no more frequently than once every ten years, while sustaining the water resources and related natural systems."

The Plan objectives were reviewed. The current objectives were "sub-goals" in the 1998 Plan. The objectives need to be measurable. Each goal was reviewed and major "conceptual" suggested changes were identified. Staff will modify the objectives based on the feedback, and bring the objectives to the next workshop for further discussion.

**6. Projections Presentation by David Gilpin-Hudson, Sr. Supervising Planner at SFWMD.**

➤ Agricultural Acreage. Mr. Gilpin-Hudson stated there are about 166,000 acres of agricultural crops irrigated in the Upper East Coast (UEC) region. The dominate crop is citrus covering almost 90% of the irrigated agricultural crop acreage. He stated the second largest crop is sugar cane with about 12,000 acres. Sugarcane is located in the southeastern corner of Martin County, and is projected to remain stable. Other crops in the region include vegetables, sod and nurseries. He indicated citrus acreage is declining in the region due to market price, population pressure, land values, and disease. The District is proposing to use a dampened trend for the citrus projection that projects a little less than 140,000 acres of citrus in the UEC in 2025. All other crops are projected to remain about the same, with some minimal increases or decreases. Mr. Gilpin-Hudson stated these projections were reviewed by local county extension services.

A discussion session followed. Doug Bournique commented there is a lot of pressure on citrus farmers to sell their land. In addition, global negotiations will determine much of the citrus industry's financial livelihood in the future. Mr. Bournique agreed with the projections presented.

Population Projections. Mr. Gilpin-Hudson stated that the assessment for Public Water Supplied and Domestic Self Supplied population involved an intensive geographic information system analysis using population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR). For the PWS and Domestic Self Supply assessment, populations residing within areas served by utilities were assessed by overlaying Census data onto utility served area boundaries. The next step involved determining water use rates in the utility served area boundaries using per capita water use. Per capita water use rates were assessed using the 2000 water withdrawals for each utility reported by the U.S. Geological Survey and dividing that number by the 2000 population determined to be in each utility served area. The resulting 2000 per capita water use rates were held constant to project 2025 water demand. Populations in each Census block were projected to grow

proportionally with the relevant growth rates specified by the county's Traffic Analysis Zone analysis, up to the county population control total of the BEBR medium population projections (BEBR 2002). The anticipated 2025 utility served boundaries were then superimposed on the 2025 population data, assigning projected populations to utilities, and then each utility's 2000 per capita rate was applied to yield projected demands for utilities.

Chairman Lindahl said this information needs to be coordinated with the Martin and St. Lucie county planners. Mr. Gilpin-Hudson provided the raw population projections for the UEC through the year 2025 that showed a 52% increase in population from 2000 to 2025.

A discussion session followed. A lengthy discussion on population estimates ensued, primarily related to questions about the accuracy of the estimates and are they capturing the extensive growth that is occurring in the region. Chairman Lindahl spoke on the University of Florida's projections and the counties' projections and said they will be reconciled if there are discrepancies.

7. **Distribute Chapter 2 (Demand Estimates and Projections).** Chapter 2 was not distributed at this time. It will be made available electronically in about two weeks.

8. **Public Comments.** None.

9. **Wrap Up/Action Items.** Mr. Elsner will prepare a matrix of issues that require follow-up from this meeting.

10. **Next Workshop.** The next UECWSP WRAC Workshop will be held on November 7, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at Stuart City Hall, 121 SW Flagler Avenue, Stuart, Florida. The agenda will include a presentation on the Loxahatchee River Restoration.

11. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

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Paula Moree  
District Deputy Clerk